

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 02254746.7 filed 8 July 2002.--

On page 1, above line 1, but below above, insert--Background of the Invention

The present invention is related to a drilling system, more particularly, a system for controlling formation pressure while drilling.--

On page 1, delete line 1-17.

On page 1, after line 25, insert--Summary of the Invention

The invention relates to a drilling system for drilling a well bore into an earth formation, comprising:

- drilling means for drilling a well bore;

- pumping means for pumping drilling fluid into the well bore during drilling;

and,

- a drilling fluid outlet system for retrieving drilling fluid from the well bore.

Such a drilling system is for example known from WO-00 79092. In this publication it is disclosed that the drilling fluid outlet system is used to maintain control over the fluid pressure at the well bore wall, especially when drilling is stopped or during tripping of the drill string out of the bore hole. Without maintaining control over the pressure, there is a potential danger that undesired fluid flows from the earth formation into the bore hole, or that the borehole wall collapses.--

On page 4, above line 1, insert--Brief Description of the Drawing--

On page 4, above line 8, insert--Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment --

Paragraph at line 12 of page 4 has been amended as follows:

-- The drilling system 1 comprises a frame 4 onto which a fluid chamber 5 is slidably arranged along a guide 6. A drill string 7 with on its bottom end a drill bit 8 is rotated by a top drive 9 in order to drill the well bore 2. The well bore 2 is partially lined with a casing 10. The drill string 7 is composed out of a plurality of drill string joints 11, which are interconnected by connectors 12a ~~en~~ and 12b. Drill mud contained in a reservoir 13 is pumped by pump 14 into the drill string 7 to the drill bit 8. The drilling mud 10 flows into the annulus between the well bore wall and the drill string 7 upwards. The annulus is closed off by a rotating blow out preventer 15. The drilling mud is returned via pipe 16 and drilling fluid outlet system 17 back to the reservoir 13. When connecting another drill string joint 11 the feed of drilling mud is taken over by pump 18, which pumps the drilling fluid into the chamber 5, such that it can flow into the drill string 7.--

Paragraph at line 1 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

-- In ~~figure~~ Figure 2 the drilling fluid outlet system 17 is shown in more detail. The system 17 comprises a valve 20 and a bi-directional choke 21. In the position of the valve 20 as shown in figure 2 the inlet pipe 16 is connected to the first connection pipe 22 of the choke 21. The outlet pipe 19 is connected to the second connection 23 of the choke 21. When the choke 21 gets clogged, the valve 20 is rotated, such that the inlet pipe 16 is connected to the second connection 23 of the choke 21 and the outlet pipe 19 is connected to the first connection 22 of the choke 21. In this way the flow direction is alternated and any debris, which is clogging the choke 21 is flushed away through outlet pipe 19.--

Paragraph at line 14 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

-- In ~~figure~~ Figure 3 a second embodiment 30 of a drilling fluid outlet system according to the invention is shown. The system 30 again comprises a valve 31 and two uni-directional chokes 32 and 33. Such chokes 32,33 have a choking action in just one flow direction. Furthermore, the system 30 comprises filter means 34,35 ~~that which filters~~ large debris in the mud, which could damage the chokes 32,33. ~~To the inlet pipe 16 an~~ An accumulator 36 is connected to the inlet pipe 16, which ensures that a constant flow is maintained while the flow direction of the system 30 is alternated by turning the valve 31. Upon alternating the flow direction of the system 30, Any ~~any~~ debris present on the filter

means 34,35 or in the chokes 32,33 is cleaned by alternating the flow direction of the system 30 and is flushed away through outlet pipe 19.--

On page 5 after line 27, add the following paragraph:

--While the illustrative embodiments of the invention have been described with particularity, it will be understood that various other modifications will be readily apparent to, and can be easily made by one skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, it is not intended that the scope of the following claims be limited to the examples and descriptions set forth herein but rather that the claims be construed as encompassing all features which would be treated as equivalents thereof by those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains.--

On page 6, insert: We claim: